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Thursday, November 4, 2010

THE MORNING NEWS

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Marjorie and Donald Kimball honored at the Divi Village Resort



Recently at the Divi Village Resort vacationers were presented with honorary titles created by the Ministry of Tourism as a token of appreciation to guest visiting Aruba for ten and 20 consecutive years. Special friends of Aruba, enjoying ten or more annual vacations here, are given the Distinguished Guest certificate and those with twenty consecutive years are awarded the Ambassador of Goodwill title. The recent honoring was effected by Aruba Tourism Authority associate Ricardo Croes. Marjorie and Donald Kimball staying at the Divi Village Resort were honored as Ambassador of Goodwill for the Island of Aruba. They consider the Divi Village Resort their home away from home. Picture depicts ATA Rep. Ricardo Croes together with Gloria and the honorees, Mr. and Mrs. Kimball at the Divi Village Resort.

Tomas regains tropical storm strength, heads for Haiti

MIAMI, Florida (AFP) - Tomas regained tropical storm strength yesterday as it barreled toward Haiti, threatening the already battered Caribbean nation with a direct hit.

A hurricane watch and a tropical storm warning were in

effect for Haiti, with tropical storm watches issued for parts of Cuba, the Dominican Republic -- which shares Hispaniola island with Haiti -- the Bahamas and Jamaica.

The eye of the storm, which lashed Barbados and left more

than a dozen dead in Saint Lucia as a hurricane over the weekend, was expected to approach Haiti tomorrow.

"The tropical cyclone will pose a significant threat of heavy rainfall, flooding and potential mudslides over Haiti

and the Dominican Republic during the next few days," the US National Hurricane Center (NHC) said in a statement.

According to the Miami-based NHC the storm would strengthen further over the next two days.

Toni Morrison awarded France's Legion of Honour



1993 Nobel Prize and Pulitzer Prize winning, US novelist, editor and professor Toni Morrison, shows her Legion of Honour after being awarded. (AFP photo)

PARIS, France (AFP) - US author Toni Morrison, whose poetic novels on slavery and the black American experience earned her the Nobel and Pulitzer prizes, was yesterday awarded France's highest decoration the Legion of Honour.

Culture Minister Frederic Mitterrand handed the award to Morrison, who received the Pulitzer for her best-known work "Beloved" in 1988 and the Nobel Prize for Literature

five years later in 1993.

"I want to tell you that in our eyes you embody the best part of America, that which founds its love of liberty on the most intense dreams," Mitterrand told the award ceremony in Paris. "The one that allowed a black child born into a poor family in deepest Ohio, in the years of segregation, to have the exceptional destiny of the greatest American woman novelist of her time."

Morrison, who is to unveil a memorial bench marking the abolition of slavery in Paris today along with members of the Toni Morrison Society, told the gathering she had "always felt welcomed in France."

"And it is important to me to receive this medal, la Legion d'honneur, because now I know in addition to being welcome, I am prized."

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Haiti cholera death toll spikes by 105

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AFP) - The death toll from Haiti's cholera epidemic spiked to 442 yesterday, with 105 more deaths since Saturday and more than a 40 percent jump in new cases, officials said.

Haitian health authorities reported that an additional 1,978 people were hospitalized, raising the total number of cases to 6,742.

The developments, announced at a news conference here by Health Ministry official Jocelyne Pierre-Louis, reflected a surge both in new cases, which were up 41 percent, and deaths, which climbed 31 percent.

The epidemic has waxed and waned since it first surfaced in the Artibonite Valley in northern Haiti on October 21, the impoverished country's first cholera outbreak in

a century.

On Monday, the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention identified the strain of cholera in Haiti as being the same as a strain found in South Asia, deepening the mystery over the source of the island's first cholera epidemic in more than a century.

Meanwhile, hospitals have been overwhelmed by cholera cases despite intensive efforts to respond to a disease that aid groups fear could spread like wildfire if it reaches densely populated Port-au-Prince.

Hundreds of thousands of people left homeless by a devastating earthquake in January live in unsanitary camps in and around the city.

The World Health Organization warned last week that the outbreak is far from over and Haiti should prepare for the "worst-case scenario" -- cholera in the capital.

International aid group Save the Children said last week the outbreak was threatening some 25,000 new mothers and their babies in and around the capital.

Although easily treated, cholera has a short incubation period -- sometimes just a few hours -- and causes acute watery diarrhea that can quickly lead to severe dehydration and death.

Parcel plot not linked to international terror, Greece says

ATHENS, Greece (AFP) - A Greek parcel bomb plot that has seen packages mailed to European leaders and foreign embassies in Athens has "no link" to international terror, the government said yesterday as Europe moved to tighten security.

"All the evidence so far

clearly shows that these incidents have nothing to do with any kind of organised international terrorism," Foreign Minister Dimitris Droustas told reporters in Athens.

Thirteen parcel bombs have so far been accounted for, including one that reached the

German chancellery in Berlin and another found on board a courier plane to Paris after it was diverted to Bologna.

These were respectively addressed to German Chancellor Angela Merkel and Italian Prime Minister Silvio Berlusconi.

Human rights campaigners voice disappointment with Obama

GENEVA, Switzerland (AFP) - Human rights campaigners today expressed disappointment at the Obama administration, saying it had failed to remedy abuse in Iraq and bring those responsible for the torture of terror suspects to justice.

Speaking before the United States faces its first public review by the UN Human Rights Council on Friday, representatives of US and international groups said Washington had

been unable to turn the page on violations under the previous administration.

"Many of us would have been much happier two years ago, we expected very much deeper change. The momentum has been lost," said Gerald Staberock, speaking on behalf of the International Commission of Jurists (ICJ).

Staberock said impunity over allegations of torture in the Iraq war and interrogations of terror suspects, continued

trials by military commissions, detentions and targeted killings by drones in Afghanistan amounted to "a grim picture on accountability."

"Not only is justice not being done, it is also prevented from being done."

Staberock and Jamal Dakwar, a director at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU), praised President Barack Obama's swift orders in January 2009 to close of Guantanamo Bay and on interrogation methods, as well as a shift away from "aggressive rhetoric on human rights."

Obama calls for action to lift gay ban in US military

WASHINGTON (AFP) - President Barack Obama yesterday renewed his call for repealing a ban on gays serving openly in the US military, voicing hope that action could be taken before a new Congress is sworn in.

Obama said legal wrangling in the courts over the issue had

created confusion for the armed forces.

"We need to provide certainty. And it's time for us to move this policy forward," Obama told a news conference.

Speaking a day after his fellow Democrats suffered a major defeat in legislative elections, Obama suggested the law could be changed in the current Congress before a newly-elected Republican majority takes over the House of Representatives in January.

With the Pentagon about to complete a review looking at the effect of lifting the ban, Obama said there was still time to repeal the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" law in the final weeks of the current Congress.

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SETAR

National folkloric dance audition, for foundations, dance groups and schools and directors and dancers of our community

ORANJESTAD –The Aruba Culture Department together with the National History Museum Foundation in the name of Aruba's Cultural Ministry invites all dance schools and groups, dancers, single or couples who are older than 16 years and interested to join the National Folkloric Dance group for the multidisciplinary artistic show: Bon Bini Festival "Un toke di Aruba su folklore y cultura" – (A touch of Aruba's culture and folklore).

The technical team is looking for persons with experience and knowledge in our music and folkloric dance, love and respect for our heritage and cultural expressions, such as our dance, music, folklore and enrichment of other cultural expressions.

Interested candidates must also possess other artistic qualities that meet expectations of the organization. The team is looking for candidates who also dominate body expression, dance basics (waltz, tumba, mazurka, etc.) stage presence, technical posture, choreographic memory, technical talents, discipline, and most important, time and dedication. The candidate must compromise himself to a 6 month con-

tract; meet all training requirements and presentation rules of the technical team and work with a selected team after the audition.

Interested persons can get an inscription form at the office of the Department of Culture, J. E. Irausquinplein # 2-A, next to the San Francisco Church in Oranjestad or via e-mail: auacultura@setar-net.aw

Last day of inscription is today, November 5, 2010. The audition will take place on November 8 and November 15 at the Cas di Cultura from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Training days for 2010 are November 29, and December 6 and 13.

"We know and are very proud of our young Aruban talents, also of the teachers, folklore school and dance groups who can show their support, and contribute to this project.

We are waiting on your participation. Come show your talent and be part of the national folkloric show "A taste of Aruba's Folklore and Culture," a spokesperson for the organizing committee said.

For more information readers may contact the Department of Culture during office hours at tel. 582-2185.

Minister Otmar Oduber signs Memorandum of Understanding with IASO

Aruba will have 100 registered aircrafts by the end of 2010 and 200 by the end of 2011

Recently, Minister of Transport, Labor and Tourism, Otmar Oduber attended different meetings in Miami. A very important issue, during the meetings was the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the International Air Safety Office Inc. (IASO) to increase the amount of aircrafts registered to Aruba.

Actually there are 85 aircrafts of different countries that are registered on Aruba and it is the intention to increase this amount to 100 by the end of 2010 and to 200 by the end of 2011.

IASO has been promoting Aruba's International Aircraft Registry Program for 15 years. The company assisted the Department of Civil Aviation with periodical trainings, and provided equipments, tools and continuous technical and electrical support.

The promotion of aircraft registration, commercial and private, is a proof of the trust



the client has in Aruba and shows the company's commitment to our island.

With all this in mind, and based on the decision of the Council of Ministers, on October 28, 2010, Minister Oduber signed the Memorandum of Understanding. Also signing the MOU was IASO President and CEO Jorge Colindres.

The MOU is an intermedi-

ate step for the final signing of the contract that is under revision at the Government Judicial Department. The contract must be signed the latest on December 31, 2010.

Minister Oduber expressed his satisfaction with the signing which will surely contribute to the development of Aruba.

Jose Donata presents his book "Cariñosamente... Recuerdonan di mi wela y otronan,"

Last Thursday, at the Aruba National Library San Nicolas branch, family members, friends and acquaintances got together for a pleasant event: the launching and presentation of the book "Cariñosamente... Recuerdonan di mi wela y otronan," – Affectionately... Memories of my Grandmother and others, by José Miguel S. Donata.

The public was very impressed with the book which is about a piece of history of Aruba, the period before and after the arrival of the refinery Lago Oil & Transport Co. The stories in the book are based on oral and elusive information.

Besides the presentation, the public also enjoyed Chuculati Pinda (a local peanut

chocolate drink) and Ponche Crema (Eggnog) with Drigidek (a local pastry).

Congratulations to the author for his book. A heartfelt 'thank you' goes to Judith Ling, Graciela, Lena Schwengle, and personnel of the San Nicolas Library for their cooperation and support.

The book is for sale at Van Dorp/De Witt and Plaza Bookshop, and also by the author.

Late Barbados Prime Minister laid to rest

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, CMC – The regional and international community joined Barbadians yesterday in bidding farewell to their sixth Prime Minister, David Thompson, who died of pancreatic cancer 11 days ago.

Governor General Sir Clifford Husbands led local dignitaries including Prime Minister Freundel Stuart, Caribbean Community (CARICOM) heads of government, diplomats and representatives of various regional and international organizations in an emotional farewell to Thompson, the third Barbadian prime min-

ister to die in office since political independence in 1966.

CARICOM Chairman and Prime Minister of Jamaica, Bruce Golding, said that it was an "amazing" sign that the rains which had threatened to put a damper on the State funeral, had given way to sunshine, perhaps reflecting the young and fulfilled life of the 48-year-old Thompson.

He described Thompson, who died on October 23, after prolonged battle with cancer, as "someone with so much promise should have been taken away from us so soon."



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There is a particularly lovely beach on Aruba with a gorgeous vista right near the airport, known always as Surfside; for some time now the building adjacent to it has gone through a string of owners seeking an appropriate identity for this special place, and it looks like it has finally

found it with the opening of the Nikki Beach Club Aruba.

Our investigative team from THE MORNING NEWS went down to have a look at this latest venture, and we found just the kind of authentically tranquil, Caribbean ambiance vacationers seek when visiting Aruba. New owner Hans and

his GM Lub have completely renovated and redesigned the venue to fully showcase this charming location while providing a very reasonably priced menu and bar.

November is the month to get acquainted with Nikki Beach as they are offering an introductory dinner special of only \$15 for a three-course meal or a different Entrée de Jour each day of the week for only \$10. This is available from 5:00 to 9:30 p.m., so you can finish up an afternoon spent on the beach, catch a meal after a dive with the adjacent SCUBA shop, or savor your supper along with one of the most spectacular locations to watch our amazing Aruban sunsets.

Jan and Lub have dubbed Sunday's at Nikki Beach "Rehab Day," when they provide a particularly pleasant ambiance with popular local

and international DJ's from noon on and \$3 Mimosas all day long. During the traditional Happy Hour time slot, they feature live music with top local groups specializing in the soft sound of the islands.

Some extremely interesting items on the menu captured our interest along with very moderate prices; aside from the November special you can expect an a la carte tab that will add to your enjoyment. Their chef offers an extensive fusion selection that reveals expertise in several notable cuisines; a nice variety that will please everyone's mood. For lunch and snacking you find a varied choice of classic salads, favorite local treats, pastas and gourmet sandwiches. Kitchen is open from 10:00 am. to 10:00 p.m. serving breakfast, lunch and dinner.

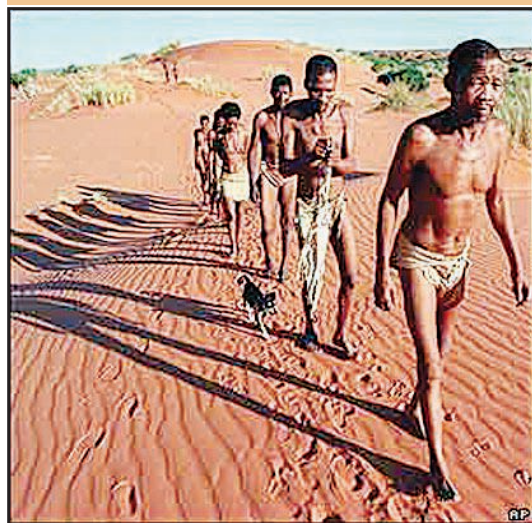
One last interesting tidbit:

Lub explained they offer a customized Departure Day Package that allows vacationer to stow their luggage, enjoy all their amenities, choose a meal, drinks or both and they will personally guarantee getting you to the airport in plenty of time for the flight. Changing rooms and showers let you swim and beach it until departure time and you can linger without rushing, as the airport is only 2 minutes away; no worries about fighting traffic or delays. "Why should you end your stay on a hurried and harried note?" asks Lub. "You can join us for the day and keep that relaxed island ambiance up to the last minute; it doesn't have to end at check out." The package requires reservations, which can be made by calling 582-0153 or contact them through their website: www.nickybeacharuba.com.

by Rosalie Klein



Celebrities boycott Botswana diamonds



JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AFP) - A group of celebrities including "X-Files" star Gillian Anderson is boycotting diamonds from Botswana to protest the government's treatment of the Kalahari Bushmen, a rights group said yesterday.

The group, Survival International, also staged a protest outside the De Beers diamond store in London, calling for the indigenous group to be given full rights to their ancestral lands.

"People should know that far from being an expensive token of eternal love, Botswana diamonds are a symbol of the nasty oppression of southern Africa's first people," Stephen Corry, Survival International's director, said in a statement.

The tribal rights group also called for a boycott of tourism and travel to Botswana.

It said other celebrities joining the boycott include actresses Joanna Lumley and Sophie

Okonedo, actor Mark Rylance and British children's author Quentin Blake.

The Bushmen, southern Africa's first inhabitants, were resettled outside their traditional lands in the Central Kalahari Game Reserve in 2002 after diamonds were discovered there.

Botswana produces almost a quarter of the world's diamonds, accounting for half its government's revenue. A court ruled in 2006 that the Bushmen had the right to return to their land, but barred them from accessing a borehole that was their only source of water.

Bushmen once numbered in the millions in southern Africa, but today only some 100,000 are left, almost half of them in Botswana. Others are spread across Angola, Namibia, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Peru asks Obama to get Yale to return Machu Picchu pieces

LIMA, Peru (AFP) - President Alan Garcia has asked US President Barack Obama to help Peru recover archaeological pieces taken from the Inca citadel at Machu Picchu and held for nearly a century at Yale University.

In a letter given to the US ambassador in Lima and released by the presidency, Garcia said he considered Obama's intervention "just and necessary" and said Peru's request was a matter of "national good faith."

Peru says there are 46,000 pieces that should be returned. Yale puts the size of the collection at 5,500 pieces, 330 of which are of museum quality, and a large number of frag-



An ancient Peruvian headdress

ments. They include ceramics, pottery, ornaments and bones that were shipped out of Peru between 1912 and 1916 by American explorer Hiram Bingham, who "rediscovered" the 15th century Inca city on the east slopes of the Andes in 1911 and made it known to the outside world.



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Costa Rica asks OAS to intervene in border dispute

WASHINGTON (AFP) - Costa Rica yesterday asked the Organization of American States to investigate its allegation that troops from neighboring Nicaragua had unlawfully entered its territory.

Some OAS member nations reacted cautiously to the request, and a special session called to discuss the issue was suspended until the evening so that ambassadors could consult their governments.

Costa Rican Foreign Minister Rene Castro asked the regional organization "to intervene so that Nicaragua withdraws its troops from Costa Rican soil."

The diplomat asked the OAS to form a commission to visit the San Juan river border

area, where Costa Rica charges that Nicaraguan troops have occupied part of its territory in recent days.

Nicaragua, for its part, has denied that its troops have crossed the border and its representative to the OAS rejected the proposed visit, calling it "totally out of line."

The dispute arose over Nicaragua's dredging of a river that separates the two countries, an action which Managua says is within its rights under agreements between the two countries.

Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega earlier had rejected the OAS as a forum for airing the dispute, and said he would take the case to the International Court of Justice in the Hague.

Costa Rica, which has no army, has sent heavily armed police to the border.

Mexico, the United States and Guatemala said they favored forming an OAS commission to mediate the dispute, while Venezuela has warned against third party intervention in bilateral disputes.

EU battles to lock down radioactive waste forever

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AFP) - Europe offered new plans yesterday to lock away forever lethal radioactive waste, but the proposals attacking hopelessly inadequate disposal facilities drew a stinging rebuke from environmentalists.

Half a century after atomic power was first produced in Britain, the European Union's nuclear energy-producing countries stand accused of future negligence without a single "deep geological disposal" site equipped to withstand up to an estimated one million years of decay.

As a result, the EU's executive arm tabled for the third time legislative proposals that would see states pushed to build the kind of facility deep in the earth's crust that it says scientists claim is the only way to protect nature's balance.

"We have to make sure that we have the highest safety standards in the world to protect our citizens, our water and the ground against nuclear contamination," said EU energy commissioner Guenther Oettinger, specifying that depths should be "a minimum of 300 meters (990 feet)."

The proposals immediately

fell foul of anti-nuclear Greenpeace, whose "dirty energy" campaigner Jan Haverkamp termed them "sub-standard."

"It would take an engineering genius to safely bury white-hot, highly-dangerous nuclear waste deep underground for longer than mankind has been on the planet," he said.

"We fear a disposal facility could rupture high-level nuclear waste into the water table for hundreds of thousands of years."

Quite simply, added leading German Green EU lawmaker Rebecca Harms, the plans "do not address citizens' concerns given the danger posed by radioactive waste."

Oettinger acknowledged that two similar initiatives were previously batted away by states, but insisted this one "will not be blocked" under post-Lisbon treaty majority voting.

The commission is targeting adoption next year, and said states would then have four years to nail down a "concrete timetable" for constructing facilities, including "the financing schemes chosen."

The commission wants nu-

clear power plant operators "to put money aside for the financing of future disposals."

Producers would not be allowed to export nuclear waste to countries outside the EU for final disposal.

Current schemes offering so-called "interim storage" are given a lifespan of "maximal 50-100 years," the commission said, meaning waste "has to be retrieved and repackaged."

Spent fuel and radioactive waste "need continuous maintenance and oversight," it said.

As the material is typically near the surface, "there is in addition a risk of accidents, including airplane crashes, fires or earthquakes."

Each year, 7,000 cubic metres (247,000 cubic feet) of "high-level" waste that cannot be re-used are produced in the EU, and by 2020, a definitive solution must be found for 1.8 million cubic metres.

Once the rules are adopted, Brussels would be able to fine states that miss targets.

There are 143 nuclear power reactors in use across 14 of the EU's 27 states, with another two, Italy and Poland, planning to build their first.

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Micro-frog springs toxic surprise



Eleutherodactylus orientalis, share the unusual ability to take toxic alkaloids from their diet and sequester the compound on their skin.

The Monte Iberia eleuth is the smallest frog in the northern hemisphere.

It is also the second smallest in the world after the

Brazilian gold frog (Psyllophryne didactyla), which measures just 9.8 mm in body length.

The Monte Iberia eleuth is part of a family of amphibians called robber frogs, of which there are several hundred in the Caribbean and the southwestern United States.

The origin of the name is unclear.

The study appears in Biology Letters, published by Britain's Royal Society.

PARIS (AFP) — A "robber frog" whose body is just 10 millimetres (three-eighths of an inch) long eats toxic mites and exudes their poison on its skin to deter predators, scientists reported on Wednesday.

The tiny creature is called the Monte Iberia eleuth -- Eleutherodactylus iberia -- after a mountain in Cuba which is its only known habitat.

Just five other species of frog, including the amphibian's Cuban cousin,

Candidates with more Facebook fans won 70 percent of races

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Candidates with a greater number of Facebook fans than their opponents won more than 70 percent of races for the US Congress, according to figures released on Wednesday.

Facebook said that in 98 of Tuesday's most hotly contested House races, 74 percent of the candidates with the most Facebook fans won.

Sixty-nine candidates for the House with the most Facebook fans won while 24 candidates with the most Facebook fans lost, the Palo Alto, California-based social network said in a statement.

Five House races are still too close to call.

In the Senate, 82 percent of the 34 Senate races that have been decided were won by the candidate with more Facebook fans.

Twenty-eight Senate candidates with the most Facebook fans won while six candidates with the most Facebook fans lost. Three races are undecided.

According to the blog AllFacebook.com, which has compiled figures from across the country, Republican can-

didates outpolled Democrats on Facebook in the races for the Senate, House of Representatives and state governor.

Overall, the Facebook pages of Republican candidates attracted 3.48 million fans while Democratic candidates drew 1.45 million, according to AllFacebook.com, which is independent of the social network.

Republican candidates for the Senate, House or governor occupied eight of the top

10 slots when it comes to Facebook fans.

Bill White, a Democrat running for governor of Texas, had the most fans of any Democrat -- 153,391 -- but lost his race.

The only other Democrat to crack the top 10 -- California gubernatorial candidate Jerry Brown with 98,573 -- won his race, beating former eBay chief executive Meg Whitman and her 207,818 Facebook fans.

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Health & Living

Italy carries out first hi-tech pancreas transplant

PISA, Italy (AFP) – Italian doctors have carried out the world's first robotically-assisted pancreatic transplant in an operation that could help diabetes sufferers everywhere, they said on Wednesday.

The robotically-assisted operation "creates new prospects for the treatment of diabetics," because its "mini-invasive" nature strongly reduces post-operation complications, the team at the university hospital in Pisa said.

The robotic technique allows surgeons to carry out the transplant through three small holes and a seven-centimetre (three-inch) incision, the hospital said.

"This will put an end to the decades-old dilemma of whether it's possible to do pancreatic transplants because the operation is so invasive when done in the traditional way," Ugo Boggi, who heads the team, said at a press conference.

The transplant was carried out on September 27 on a 43-year-old mother of two who had suffered from type one diabetes since she was 24 years old and had already had a kidney transplant.

The patient suffered no complications from the three-hour operation and left the hospital on October 30.

Pancreatic transplants have been very invasive until now because of the organ's vascular structure and the fragility of diabetic patients, who in 50 percent of cases develop post-operative problems, a hospital statement said.

The medical team carried out the operation with the assistance of the "Da Vinci SHDI robot" -- a large machine with several arms -- designed in the multidisciplinary Robotic Surgery centre in Pisa.



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Retinal implant brightens future for blind

PARIS (AFP) – German doctors on Wednesday announced a breakthrough in retinal implants, the fledgling technology that aims to restore sight in people cursed by a form of inherited blindness.

Three patients fitted with the new device were able to see shapes and objects, and one was able to walk around

a room by himself, approach people, read a clock face and distinguish between seven shades of grey.

"(It) could eventually revolutionise the lives of up to 200,000 people worldwide who suffer from blindness as a result of retinitis pigmentosa," Britain's de-facto academy of sciences, said.

Retinitis pigmentosa is a

degenerative disease in which light receptors in the retina, on the back of the eyeball, gradually cease to function.

Electronic implants that are attached to the retina and are linked by wire to a small external camera that is mounted to a pair of spectacles.

The camera picks up light and sends the image in the form of an electrical sig-

nal, via a processor unit, to the implant.

The implant then feeds the data to the optic nerve which leads from the eyeball to the brain.

The new device takes a step forward by capturing light that travels naturally through the eye's lens.

Correctly known as a sub-retinal implant, it entails a

microchip comprising some 1,500 light sensors that are attached underneath the retina, thus replacing some of the lost receptors.

What the brain receives through the optic nerve is a tiny image comprising 38 pixels by 40 pixels -- points of light that are each brighter or dimmer according to the light that falls on the chip.

OP-ED

The more things change, the more they stay the same?



The exhilaration and optimism of the last presidential election and a clear statement by voters for change has been diluted by disappointment, compromise by democrats and a system, as one political pundit describes as "so awash with money that money has bought everything, even the democrats."

On Tuesday, triumphant republicans won 60 seats in the House of Representatives, while democrats maintained a majority in the Senate. We hope this will provide some checks and balances as a republican congress attempts to alter or eradicate the far-reaching Dodd-Frank financial overhaul that democrats managed to squeak through this past summer, while trying to pass legislation that will permit campaign contributions to be made anonymously, a policy that would be disastrous for the average voter.

We would think every mid-

dle-class American would want to know exactly who is backing candidates and how much they are contributing. Will this candidate truly represent their district or will they be beholden to special interest groups? The fact that such a bill is proposed and promoted by republicans should make voters pause and think.

Progressive pundits predicted the republican victory as the democratic government of the last two years did not give the immediate change and economic relief voters sought by putting them in office. Obama and legislators faced a situation so dire, to expect this miracle within a year or two was unrealistic, but it is what was promised. They exacerbated dissatisfaction by providing bailouts for big banks and institutions which further confused voters who would normally have voted democrat. Unemployment has increased

over the past two years and people are angry. Voter response in such situations, as one commentator succinctly puts it, is to "throw the bums in office out." Unfortunately, by doing so, they have elected representatives who embody the policies that brought

the U.S. to the financial precipice in the first place, and will likely attempt to legislate in a manner that may do so again. We can only hope that a democratic senate and a president with veto power will help to control some stratagems which will continue the policy of favoring the very wealthy with tax relief in the belief that this creates jobs and they will share their wealth with the lower classes, even though they have proven consistently this will not be the case.

We do take some comfort that such radical and obviously unqualified Tea Party candidates such as Christine O'Donnell, whose incompetence for office was stridently obvious, did lose in Delaware. We would have preferred to see a much greater margin, the fact that she garnered such a large percentage is still disturbing, and particularly in light of how many times she is recorded in demonstrating her extreme lack of knowledge regarding the fundamentals of American history and law. The average person on the street may not have this knowledge either, but you should expect it from your legislators.

What affect those particular Tea Party candidates who have managed to catch the attention of big money interests will have on the G.O.P. and the next election is something that bears watching. As a company comprised principally of single women, THE MORNING NEWS applauds the increase of women making their mark

in government, but not when they are simply puppets of interests who have the funds to use them for their own agendas.

At present, the Tea Party movement is disorganized and a canvas of all the Tea Party groups around the U.S. by The Washington Post revealed most local chapters consist of people who have given little attention to politics previously, some never having even voted. A number of their leaders admitted it was a reaction to having a president of color, which they find intolerable. They did score a few major victories, such as Marco Rubio in Florida, and one has to wonder what will happen in two years.

Looking at the election results, one can only think, "It could have been worse." If Americans want a truly representative government they need to learn to ignore TV commercials, which at best, say absolutely nothing about the candidate, or at worst, are lying character assassinations of their opponents. The public needs to do some research before marking their ballot. A representative's voting record or legislation they have proposed is all a matter of public record, and can easily be uncovered by

any search engine. C-Span is pretty boring, but there are a number of programs which analyze the actions of the House and the Senate in ways that make it understandable for the layperson. Ignore the rhetoric and claims of being "Unamer-



ican" for dissenting, and listen to those that criticize republicans and democrats alike, as they point out the flaws in the system that claims your tax dollars but does not deliver what you pay for.

Perhaps it is not the place of an Aruban newspaper to comment on American politics, but what affects America politically, and so financially, greatly affects Aruba as well. For some excellent commentary on Tuesday's election we suggest this video: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=QDS2LScjkNc&feature=sub>

by Rosalie Klein



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Germany unveils new 'psychic' octopus -- and he's French

BERLIN, Germany (AFP) — Octopus Paul II, successor to the tentacled tipster that wowed the world with his uncanny knack of correctly predicting World Cup football games, was unveiled amid great fanfare yesterday in Germany.

The new cephalopod, also named Paul in honour of his world-famous predecessor who passed away last week, was lowered gently into his tank in a ceremony carried live on national television.

Paul the younger initially appeared more publicity-shy than his media-hungry forerunner, sticking closely to the side walls of the tank as the TV cameras rolled.

The aquarium in Oberhausen, western Germany, limited the number of photo-

graphers allowed into the room, amid hefty interest from around the world.

"We got him from near Montpellier" in southern France, an aquarium employee told AFP.

However, the German aquarium was keen to downplay the possibility that Paul II will inflict the same pain to bookmakers as Paul I did, to the joy of punters around the world.

"No one yet knows whether Paul will be able to follow in his footsteps, or rather, his tentacle steps," aquarium spokeswoman Tanja Munzig said in a statement.

Paul I shot to fame by defying the odds to predict eight successive games during the recent World Cup in South Africa, including Spain's 1-0

triumph against the Netherlands in the final.

For the prediction, two boxes were lowered into the salty soothsayer's tank, each containing a mussel and the flag of the two opposing teams.

Watched by a myriad of reporters, Paul would head to one box, wrench open the lid and gobble the tasty morsel, with the box he plumped for being deemed the likely winner.

His astonishing ability made him a global media phenomenon. His later predictions were carried live on rolling news channels in Germany.

He died peacefully in his sleep aged nearly three on October 26, sparking hundreds of messages of condolence from his 60,000-strong Facebook



fan club and some less serious comments.

"Paul the octopus is dead. Bet he didn't see that coming," wrote several users on microblogging site Twitter.

It is unlikely, however, that around five-month-old Paul II will live to give predictions for

the next World Cup in 2014 in Brazil, given that the life expectancy of octopuses in captivity is around three years.

Whether he will make the next European championship, in the Ukraine and Poland in 2012, is also far from being a safe bet.

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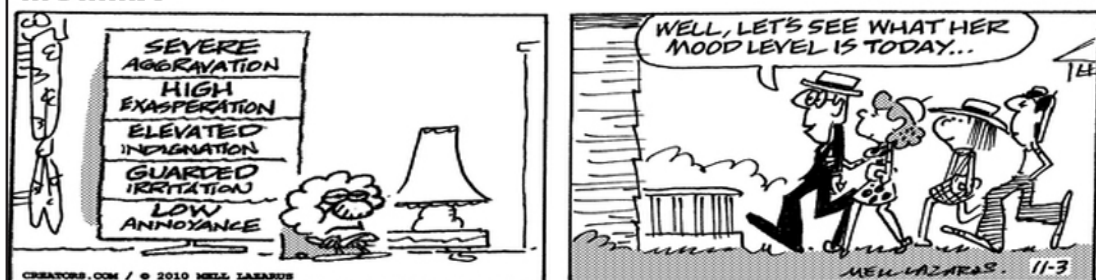
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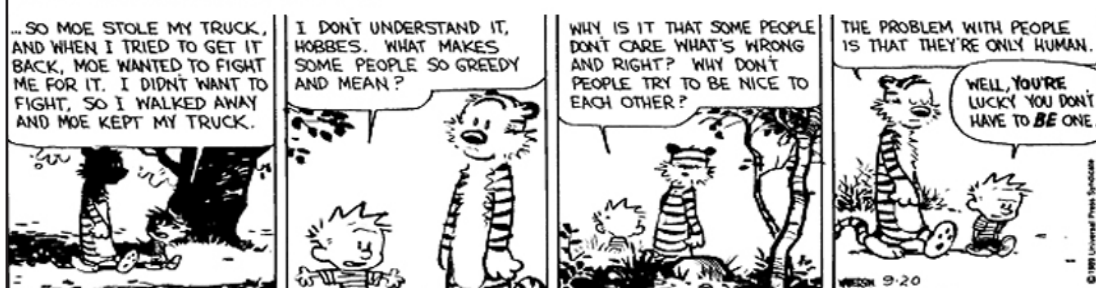
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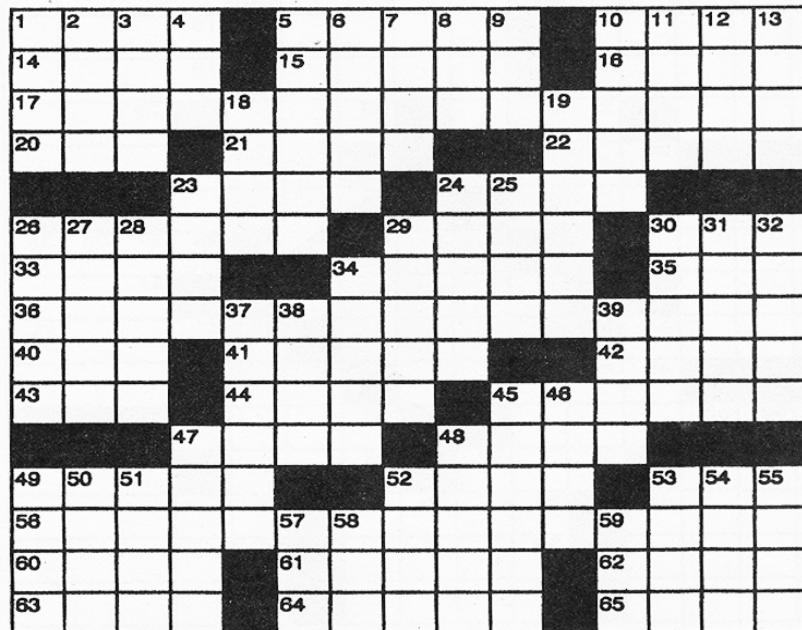
ACROSS

1. Upset
5. Of the sun
10. Control
14. Black
15. Disposed
16. Sailing
17. Lack of sympathy
20. Links mound
21. _____ meridiem
22. Plumed bird
23. Secrete
24. African river
26. Travelers' resting spots
29. Earlier
30. "_____ of Consent"
33. Seed cover
34. Swift
35. New Mexico county
36. Snubbing
40. Single
41. Goddess of agriculture
42. Rose's love
43. Become careless
44. Hamlet's lament
45. More cautious
47. Multitude
48. Bullfighter's prop
49. Capital of Guam
52. Asked
53. Chapeau
56. Lack of emotion
60. Opera singer Mills
61. Obvious

DOWN

62. Specialty for Sills
63. Solidifies
64. Merchandise
65. Male pig
1. Denomination
2. Woodwind
3. Play part
4. Lineman
5. Disburses
6. Speechifies
7. Traditional knowledge
8. Social insect
9. Ruff's mate
10. Place for a home?
11. Customer
12. _____ majeste
13. Bridge seat
18. Acclaim
19. Take out
23. Owned
24. December tunes
25. Ticked off
26. Georgia city
27. University of Maine location
28. Like most bathrooms
29. Smoke ducts
30. Accused person's defense
31. Lamp spirit
32. Enthusiastic
34. Raid
37. Sacred beetle
38. Ship's wheel
39. Fad
45. Military school students
46. Mimed
47. Colombian mountains
48. Outline
49. Expert pilots
50. Pierce
51. Dismounted
52. Certain South African
53. Deli sandwich
54. Continent
57. Despicable
58. Reproductive cells
59. Arrest

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Sudoku



SOLUTION

4	8	2	1	7	6	9	5	3
9	6	1	2	3	8	7	4	5
3	5	7	8	4	9	6	1	2
6	3	9	5	8	7	4	2	1
8	7	9	4	1	2	3	6	5
2	1	7	9	6	3	8	5	4
1	9	8	6	5	4	2	3	7
4	2	6	3	9	1	5	8	7
5	7	3	4	2	8	1	6	9

Complete the grid so that every row and every column contains the numbers 1 through 9
 A number is Never repeated in a row or column.
 In addition every rectangle must contain the numbers 1 through 9



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Finance

Lula: Brazil to fight US-China 'currency war' at G20 summit

BRASILIA, Brazil (AFP) - Brazil will be looking to fight a "currency war" it sees underway between the United States and China that is threatening its export sector, President Luiz Inacio Lula da Silva said yesterday.

"I am going to the G20 to fight" this, he said in a joint media conference with his elected successor, Dilma Rousseff, who takes over as Brazilian president in January.

Lula said he and Rousseff would be going to the November 11-12 meeting in Seoul, called by the South Korean government to discuss global economic and financial issues.

"The United States and

China are waging a currency war. The United States because it wants to fix its fiscal deficit problem and China because it knows it can't continue undervaluing its money like it is," Lula said.

Rousseff added that "all countries apart from China and the United States see that there is a currency war."

Brazil's crucial export sector is hurting as a cheap dollar makes its products more expensive abroad.

Lula said his government will "take all necessary measures to ensure our money doesn't stay overvalued" against the greenback

US private sector seen building jobs

WASHINGTON (AFP) - US private sector employment rose in October, paring losses of previous months but doing little to allay fears that the US job market is still treading water, payrolls firm ADP said yesterday.

Private-sector employment increased by 43,000 from September to October

on a seasonally adjusted basis, according to the firm's monthly report.

Most economists had expected around 23,000 jobs to have been created.

But ADP warned: "Employment gains of this magnitude are not sufficient to lower the unemployment rate."

January start eyed for Central America's first subway

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AFP) - Construction of Central America's first subway system, in Panama, will

begin in January 2011 on a nearly 1.5-billion-dollar contract, the president's office said yesterday.

The Linea Uno construction consortium, which groups Brazil's Construtora Norberto Odebrecht, Fomento de Construcciones y Contratas (FCC) of Spain and France's Alstom, won the contract a week ago.

The consortium's bid was the costlier of the two finalists to build the 14-kilometer (nine-mile) subway in Panama City, but government officials said they preferred its technical qualities.

OECD: Global recovery on track but debt unsustainable

PARIS, France (AFP) - A fragile global economic rebound is set to gather momentum next year but debt in leading industrialised nations is expected to soar to record levels, the OECD said yesterday.

Average quarterly growth in OECD members should pick up from 1.75 percent at present to 2.5 percent in the second half of next year and 3.0 percent in the second half of 2012, the OECD said in its latest economic outlook.

"The global economic recovery remains fragile but is broadly on track," the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development said in a report published ahead of a summit of Group of 20 nations in Seoul later this month.

But it warned that the economic crisis of the last two years had "pushed public deficits and debt to unsustainable levels."

OECD Secretary General Angel Gurría said: "Simply stabilising debt relative to gross domestic product in most countries will require a historical consolidation effort of anywhere from 6.0 to 9.0 percent of GDP."

He said: "But in fact even more is needed to bring debt

back to sustainable levels."

The study found that although growth in the industrialised world had slowed this year, reflecting a winding down in government stimulus measures, low interest rates and robust activity in emerging market countries means that "the present soft patch in output growth is not projected to persist for long."

The OECD said that average growth in its members in 2010 was expected to come to 2.5 to 3.0 percent, between 2.0 and 2.5 percent in 2011 and 2.5 and 3.0 percent in 2012.

It forecast that while the growth in the United States would be vigorous, given the country's strong ties to emerging markets, the rebound would likely be "more limited" in the eurozone and Japan.

The report cautioned that the forecasts could be upset by a renewed slide in housing prices which would cut into consumption, and tension on foreign exchange markets which could prompt protectionist pressures.

But what emerged in the analysis as a more immediate threat was the state of public finances, which it said had

"badly deteriorated."

It said that even if debt-to-GDP ratios stabilised, they would remain "unacceptably high" in many countries, "exposing them to financial market volatility and reducing their fiscal space to counteract future economic downturns."

The OECD stressed that reducing spending deficits is especially critical in light of renewed concerns about sovereign debt, notably as a loss of confidence in a country's capacity to shore up its public finances would increase borrowing costs.

That threat has been acute in parts of Europe this year, in such financially troubled countries as Greece, Spain, Portugal and Ireland.

But the OECD found that "sovereign debt turmoil" had abated in Europe with the creation of support arrangements by the European Union and the International Monetary Fund.

"These should be followed up with permanent mechanisms to detect the emergence of unsustainabilities (and) contain the risk of renewed sovereign debt stress," the OECD said.

Fed resumes massive spending to spur recovery

WASHINGTON (AFP) - The Federal Reserve on Wednesday agreed to pour an additional 600 billion dollars into the US economy, a bold but risky move to ease crushing unemployment.

The Fed's top policy panel cast aside its long-held reluctance to micro-managing the economy, as members faced down the prospect of a lost

decade of growth.

The Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) said it would buy up new Treasury debt at a rate of around 75 billion dollars a month, a scale not seen since the depths of the economic crisis.

While the Fed took similar measures during the crisis and has been rolling over old purchases, the expanded

spending is unprecedented when the economy is not teetering on the edge of collapse and redefines the bank's role.

Fed members, warning that the pace of the recovery "continues to be slow," agreed to buy up longer-term bonds, as well as around the 35 billion dollars in debt that expires each month.

Toyota, GM lag as U.S. auto sales gain

DETROIT, Michigan - U.S. auto sales rose 13 percent in October, the best month of the year, led by a 19 percent gain at Ford Motor Co. while Toyota Motor Corp. slipped.

As it released pricing details on a planned initial pub-

lic offering, General Motors said U.S. sales grew only 3.5 percent from the previous October. GM remained No. 1 in the market in total sales, ahead of Ford and Toyota.

Other major automakers all posted double-digit gains.

Still reeling from the aftermath of a wave of safety recalls earlier this year, Toyota posted a 4 percent sales decline. The top global automaker was the only company to report a drop in U.S. sales for the month.

YESTERDAY'S Crossword Answer

ALIAS LAMP TUB CABE
WASP ODER ERA SALLE
ENTOURAGE ENTRENOUS
SKINNER SIP SADDEST
GIN BENET MEL
SLEET DENSEST REDAN
POND CONTE PAR SERA
ASP MAY SRI WEB RES
REASONED TAJ VANISH
SON NOG NAM RIG
MASTER TAD RESOLUTE
TRA YON BED SIN EEL
LENS BOY RELAX MUNI
MATHS DEFACES HORSE
EON ARIES BAR
TRILLED ELM AERATES
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Linda's Pancakes and Pizza place, delicious meals for breakfast, lunch and dinner



Plain Pancake

Linda's Pancake and Pizza place, located at Palm Beach 6D, Noord (on the right side of Valero gas station) offers patrons the most delicious Dutch pancakes and pizza's with a Dutch twist.

Open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., and only five minutes away from the high-rise resorts, Linda's is the perfect eatery for the whole family.

Seeing the popularity of this quaint small eatery, THE MORNING NEWS decided it

is just mmm... good. The saté... out of this world!"

Besides the original plain pancake, Linda's specialty is pancakes with walnuts, Brie and honey; pancakes with banana and mango or a Dutch favorite: pancake with apple and bacon.

All their pizzas are made with Dutch Gouda cheese and different toppings making it richer in taste.

When it comes to saté, one has to say that the secret is in



Olgita, Ilhan and Iyanla enjoying a scrumptious meal

was time to find out just how good Linda's really is, by sending out a team of taste testers.

Olgita, joined by her two kids ordered a little of everything while the kids roamed around freely, enjoying the afternoon.

The meal started out with Linda's original plain – to die for – Dutch pancakes, followed by pizza, where instead of using mozzarella Linda has created a unique twist to the traditional Italian dish by using Dutch Gouda cheese. Adding a local favorite which could not stay off the table they also sampled the delicious saté (chicken, pork or beef on a wooden skewer) with peanut sauce (Indonesian influence on local food). For the finish the team (adults only) had one cup of Linda's delicious Espresso.

The team had this to say: "Superb! There are no words to describe just how delicious the pancakes are and the pizza

the sauce. Not everybody can make that perfect peanut sauce, but Linda, being an expert in the kitchen has cooked up one of the finest peanut sauces on the island, making this original Indonesian dish extra special.

If you want a specially prepared pancake or pizza, Linda is right there -- just for you -- in her kitchen.

"For those who are allergic to gluten I have a special pancake mix, gluten free," Linda stated to THE MORNING NEWS team.

Linda's Pancakes and Pizza also offers fried eggs and homemade soups.

"We also serve American coffee," Linda concluded.

With a complete menu, filled with delicious pancakes, pizzas and more, Linda's pancake and Pizza place is the perfect casual restaurant for all in the family.

For more information contact Linda's at 586-3378.

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Harry Potter blamed for India's owl crisis

NEW DELHI, India (AFP) – Indian Environment Minister Jairam Ramesh has blamed fans of Harry Potter for the demise of wild owls in the country as children seek to emulate the boy wizard by taking the birds as pets.

The hit books and films, which are popular in India, feature a snowy owl called Hedwig who is a feathered sidekick for the Potter character and used to deliver mail.

"Following Harry Potter, there seems to be a strange fascination even among the urban middle classes for presenting



their children with owls," Ramesh said, according to comments reported by the BBC.

His remarks came as wildlife group Traffic presented a report called "Imperilled Custodians of the Night" which warned about the declining owl population in India.

Researchers found that a growing number of owls were being trapped, traded or killed in black magic rituals.

Traffic called for tougher measures to protect the bird ahead of Diwali, one of the biggest Hindu festivals, which starts on Friday. It said owls were sometimes sacrificed on auspicious occasions.

Cuba Catholics to open first new seminary in decades

PENALVER, Cuba – The Roman Catholic Church yesterday opened its first new seminary in Cuba in more than half a century in a further sign of its improving relations with the island's communist-led government.

Workers this week put the final touches to the salmon-colored complex of buildings organized around a chapel with stained-glass windows, eight miles south of Havana.

The seminary replaces a similar complex expropriated by Cuba's communist authorities in 1966 and transformed

first into a military barracks, then a police academy. A seminary is a school that teaches theology and religious history and prepares students for priesthood.

Cuban Catholics view the project as a step toward the opening of new spaces for religion in Cuban society.

The construction of the new seminary, a project aspired to by the Catholic Church since the ground-breaking visit of Pope John Paul II to Cuba in 1998, received strong support when Raul Castro came to power, church officials said.

To help celebrate the inauguration of the new facility, bishops from the Vatican and several countries attended, among them Thomas Wenski, the Archbishop of Miami, the heart of the Cuban exile community in the United States.

Cuba's government helped facilitate the purchase of construction materials and other aspects of the seminary project, which was financed with donations from the Episcopal Conference of Italy, the Knights of Columbus in the United States and Catholic groups in Germany.

Indonesia volcano erupts again; more flee

Indonesia's Mount Merapi erupted several times yesterday, forcing the evacuation of hundreds of thousands more people, officials said.

The volcano in central Java spewed plumes intermittently for about five hours.

The evacuation zone has been expanded from 10- to 15 kilometers, and monitoring officers on the central Java mountain's slopes had to be pulled out, the Jakarta Post reported



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Published Monday thru Saturday

Dutch govt intends to exempt small bars from smoking ban

THE HAGUE, The Netherlands (AFP) – The Dutch government said yesterday it intended to exempt bars smaller than 70 square meters (753 square feet), with no staff other than the owner, from a smoking ban introduced in July 2008.

"The exemption applies only for small bars with no personnel," a health ministry statement said. "Every bar will have to put up a sign to alert customers whether or not it is a smoking establishment."

The smoking ban will remain unchanged for establishments like restaurants, bars with personnel, and discos, the statement said.

Health Minister Edith Schippers on Wednesday informed parliament of the decision, which was in line with the governing agreement of a new, rightist coalition.

Health ministry spokeswoman Inge Freriksen told AFP the decision must still be approved by parliament, where the minority coalition of the Christian Democratic Action (CDA) and the conservative liberal VVD enjoys the backing of the Party for Freedom of anti-Islam MP Geert Wilders.

All three parties, which together have a one-seat majority in the lower house of parliament, support the measure.

It would also be referred to the Council of State, which advises the government on legislation.

In the meantime, "enforcement of the smoking ban in small bars with no personnel will not be a priority, and fines already issued will be withdrawn," said the statement.

The Netherlands banned smoking in the hotel, restaurant and catering industry as



from July 1, 2008 to protect staff from the dangers of passive smoking.

Fines ranged from 300 to 2,400 euros (420 to 3,360 dollars) for the owner.

Earlier this year, statistics from the Food and Consumer Product Safety Authority (VWA), a government body, showed that about 41 percent of Dutch bars and discos were transgressing the law.

Owners said they risked financial ruin if they showed puffing clients the door. Many did not have the space or the money to install separate smoking areas.

The Netherlands has more than 5,500 bars, about 3,000 of them staffed by the owner alone.

Schippers said that through the new exemption "consumers will get more freedom of choice and personnel will remain protected against tobacco smoke."

Shortly after the ban was introduced, bar owners formed resistance groups collecting money to help one another pay the fines and legal costs for defying the ban.

Two different courts ruled last year that the ban unfairly discriminated against small, one-person operations.

But those rulings were annulled, and appeals judges in June this year upheld the ban's general applicability.

Umpires must buck up, says India skipper Dhoni

AHMEDABAD (AFP) - India captain Mahendra Singh Dhoni on Wednesday said umpires must smarten up their act, fuelling a fresh debate on the controversial Umpire Decision Review System (UDRS).

"There are two gentlemen standing on the ground as umpires," Dhoni said.

"They are professionals and paid to do their job. They have got support from the TV umpire. So it is surprising to see them making some of the mistakes."

"They have to step up and perform."

The Indian captain was speaking ahead of India's first Test against New Zealand beginning at the Sardar Patel stadium in Ahmedabad on Thursday.

Dhoni however said he was not in favour of implementing the UDRS, which allows players to appeal against a decision made by the on-field umpires.

"I have mixed opinion on the UDRS," he said. "It is not something that gives cent per cent results. It is not always

correct. It is like I have to buy a life jacket but it does not come with a warranty."

"That's a bit of a hassle for me, especially with the huge amount of money you have to spend to have the system in place."

"The moment it comes with a warranty, I am all for it. For now, they have to improve on the technology."

Cricket powerhouses India, currently the number one Test side in the world, have resisted the technology ever since their first brush with the system during their tour of Sri Lanka in 2008.

The Indians struggled with the referrals, getting only one right, while Sri Lanka successfully challenged 11 decisions.

The system used in Sri Lanka was Virtual Eye, while the broadcaster for India's home series, Neo Sports, uses Hawk-Eye, a rival technology.

Both technologies have been used extensively in countries such as South Africa and helped weed out some umpiring errors, though

without always providing conclusive evidence for touch-and-go decisions.

The technology is set to be used for the first time in an Ashes series, beginning in Australia later this month.

Some of India's players have expressed their support for the reviews but the majority, including star batsman Sachin Tendulkar, remain sceptical.

New Zealand captain Daniel Vettori said he would have preferred to have the technology in place for the three-Test series.

"I like the referral system," he said. "There are still a few hiccups with the technology, but I think it is good for the game if it is used consistently."

"Though the system requires to be perfected, it is a positive thing for the game."

The second Test will be played in Hyderabad from November 12-16 and the third in Nagpur from November 20-24. The Tests will be followed by five one-day internationals from November 28.

Europeans train their eyes on Breeders Cup glory

PARIS (AFP) - Three European racing training legends will be looking this weekend to add yet another glorious chapter to their achievements when they saddle up three live chances for the Breeders Cup meet at Louisville, Kentucky.

Two of them, French trainer Freddy Head and Barbados-born England-based handler Sir Michael Stoute, will be going for a third successive win in their respective targeted races while Englishman Henry Cecil is eyeing a second consecutive triumph in the Fillies and Mares Turf with his filly Middy.

Head is attempting with his five-year-old marvel Goldikova to win the Breeders Cup Mile and if success-

ful she would become the first horse to win three times at the Breeders Cup - no mean feat for a horse who failed to win in her first three races as a three-year-old.

Stoute will try to win his third successive Breeders Cup Turf with Epsom Derby and Arc de Triomphe champion Workforce, who has to many people's relief shown that his record win in the former race was no fluke by his courageous edging of Japanese rival Nakayama Festa in the Arc in Paris in October.

Middy would bring yet another emotional triumph for 67-year-old Cecil, who is in remission after battling stomach cancer in 2006 and who lost his twin brother David to cancer in 2000.


Cecil has rebounded from

a series of poor seasons to record a steady stream of Group One wins in recent campaigns and had a red letter day at Newmarket on October 16 when Twice Over became only the 11th horse to win successive Champion Stakes and Frankel stamped his mark as the best two-year-old of the year in landing the Dewhurst Stakes.

Middy will despite her eye-catching exploits never attain the headlines of Goldikova, who has won 11 Group Ones making her the first European horse to achieve that many successes in the top level and will earn her place in the equine history books with victory on Saturday.

American phenomenon Zenyatta is vying for a second straight victory in the Breeders Cup Classic on top of a 2008 Ladies Classic victory to take her race record to 20 wins and no defeats, however Head is not all that complimentary about her record compared to his mare's.

Head accepts she is a champion but that some of her top class wins should only be regarded as "Group One and a half", which is saying that they are not quite Group One class.



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Harrison is "delusional" Haye says



David Haye

LONDON (AFP) - WBA world heavyweight champion David Haye has scoffed at comments from his next challenger Audley Harrison that he had been knocked down while sparring for their forthcoming fight.

The British rivals have been trading barbs over the last few weeks as they prepare for their big fight in Manchester on November 13.

The latest round of charges came when former Olympic champion Harrison claimed that Haye had been decked in training by sparring partner and former world title challenger Tony Thompson.

But Haye, who will be making the second defence of his WBA title, insists the Olympic gold medallist is "delusional".

"Audley wants to believe I got knocked down but it's myth," Haye told talkSPORT.

"I'm hoping he takes it on board because he's looking for things to give him a mental advantage."

"If he wants to believe I got knocked down in spar-

ring, then keep believing it."

"If that's going to make him sleep a bit better at night then go for it."

"Tell him I got knocked down 500 times in sparring if that makes him feel better."

"I know it didn't happen and it's irrelevant. The guy's delusional, he seriously is."

Harrison had stated: "They brought Tony Thompson in, he's a world-class heavyweight, but he's not a puncher."

"If Tony Thompson's putting David Haye out...I already know that's going to happen in this fight."

Haye is overwhelming favourite to retain his crown at the MEN Arena and has warned Harrison he will feed on his psychological demons.

"I'm glad Audley's having his time in the spotlight and is getting some column inches," he said.

"Hopefully he'll take all these newspaper clippings and make a book of them so that when he slinks back off to LA he can have a look at them."




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Pros see 'exciting' time with Woods dethroned



Germany's Martin Kaymer

SHANGHAI (AFP) - Lee Westwood's ousting of American superstar Tiger Woods as world number one has injected new excitement into a suddenly wide-open golf landscape, players said Wednesday.

England's Westwood dethroned the struggling Woods earlier this week, ending the latter's latest half-decade at the top a year after sex scandals threw his personal life and golf career into turmoil.

Woods has been hailed throughout his career as the saviour of golf through his sublime skills and the rock-star excitement he generates, but today's more level playing field also is good for the game, Westwood said.

"Yeah, I think it's an interesting time for golf," he told reporters in Shanghai a day ahead of the seven-million-dollar HSBC Champions.

"You know, it is I think a lot more interesting when it's more volatile with who can become world number one," he said.

Westwood and Woods

lead a power-packed field featuring eight of the world's top-ranked players at the HSBC Champions, including defending champ Phil Mickelson and in-form US PGA champion Martin Kaymer of Germany.

All four have a shot at the top ranking based on their performance this week in the tournament at Sheshan golf club, which was elevated last year to one of the four World Golf Championships events.

"You know, Martin has obviously played very consistently just recently. Phil and Tiger have been at the top of the world rankings for a while. I suppose, as I have myself, as well," Westwood said.

"I think for the neutral who doesn't normally watch golf, it's captured their imagination.

Even Woods, while shrugging off his loss of the top ranking, acknowledged the buzz.

"I think it's exciting for, I'm sure, the public," he said. Adding to golf's new com-

petitive feeling has been the surging form of budding European stars such as Kaymer, US Open winner Graeme McDowell of Northern Ireland and his countryman, 20-year-old Rory McIlroy.

All were key members of the victorious Ryder Cup squad that defeated Woods and the United States last month.

"I think the next five or 10 years you will see the same five, 10 guys fighting against each other a lot of the time. There are a lot of young guys playing well at the moment," he said.

Westwood also said he was impressed by the recent European showings.

"You look at the performances just recently, it's incredibly strong," he said.

"It's a strong time for Europe. I don't know the reason. It goes in cycles like that. We have a lot of good players at the moment," he said.

Kaymer said even with the achievements of Westwood and other Europeans, Woods remains the gold standard in the sport despite playing some of the worst golf of his career this year and not winning a tournament.

"I think in everybody's head, he is still the best player in the world. And even for us, we play against him every week, and it's always a fantastic challenge to play against him," Kaymer said.

Woods said Wednesday his bid to rebuild his swing with new coach Sean Foley remained a "work in progress."

"Of course he's playing not so good at the moment, but he has some reasons obviously," Kaymer said.

"But everybody hopes that he will come back to the way he was before."

Bryant says he'll play in 2012 Games if USA want him



LOS ANGELES (AFP) - Los Angeles Lakers star Kobe Bryant told US Olympic basketball coach Mike Krzyzewski on Tuesday that he'll play in the London Games if the United States want him.

Bryant was a guest on Krzyzewski's SIRIUS XM radio show on Tuesday and the Duke University coach asked the Lakers guard about London.

"You guys want me there, I am there and I'm ready to defend," Bryant said. "And then when you guys need me to put some points on the board I'll do that, too."

Bryant was a starter on the American team that won gold at the 2008 Beijing Games.

But he skipped the world championships this year after knee surgery in the NBA off-season.

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Former world champ surfer Irons dies



Andy Irons

HONOLULU (AFP) - Former three-time world surfing champion Andy Irons has died at the age of 32, his father Phil Irons said Tuesday.

Irons was found dead in a hotel room in Dallas, Texas, where he was on a layover en route to his home on the Hawaiian island of Kauai.

Employees at the Grand Hyatt Hotel, Dallas-Fort Worth Airport, found the body and called airport police.

Local public safety officials said the man had checked in on Monday and had died of unknown causes.

An American county medical examiner has ruled out foul play in the death.

A statement from Irons' family in Hawaii, posted on the website of the Association of Surfing Professionals, said Irons "had reportedly been battling with Dengue Fever," although it remained unclear if Irons actually had that illness.

In their statement, the Irons family thanked the surfer's friends and fans and requested privacy "so their focus can remain on one another during this time of profound loss."

Irons is survived by his wife, Lyndie, who is expecting their first child in December.

Texas medical examiner Nizam Peerwani said the cause of death might not be known for several weeks while a series of lab tests are completed.

Hard fall sidelines Beasley in Miami homecoming

MIAM (AFP) - Minnesota forward Michael Beasley had a painful return to Miami on Tuesday, when a hard fall as he drove to score against his former team knocked him out of the NBA contest.

Beasley landed awkwardly after making a layup eight minutes before half-time.

He clutched his left hip, rose and took a few painful steps before falling again near the Timberwolves' bench.

He was helped to the locker room, where he was diagnosed with a bruise and X-rays showed no fractures.

It was Beasley's first game back in Miami after spending two seasons with the Heat, who traded him in July for second-round draft picks in 2011 and 2014.

Beasley had been Minnesota's leading scorer through the season's first three games, averaging 14.7 points.

He finished with 11 points on 4 of 9 shooting in 10 minutes, including a one-handed slam off an offensive rebound



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Thousands jam streets to celebrate Giants



Pictured pitcher Brian Wilson of the San Francisco Giants runs down the street during the San Francisco Giants victory parade yesterday.

Hundreds of thousands of Giants fans, dressed in black and orange, lined the streets of San Francisco on

Wednesday for a ticker-tape parade to celebrate the franchise's first World Series title since 1954.

The parade paid homage to the route taken when the Giants were first welcomed to San Francisco in 1958, but this time the parade included the World Series trophy for the first time in the city's history.

Former greats such as Willie Mays and Willie McCovey traveled along the route in classic convertibles reminiscent of that 1958 parade, which attracted hundreds of thousands of fans to welcome the Giants to the Bay Area.

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